

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 3 are currently pending in the application.

This amendment is in response to the final Office Action of November 3, 2003.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejections

Anticipation Rejection Based on Kajihara et al. (U.S. Patent 5,378,656)

Claims 1 through 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kajihara et al. (U.S. Patent 5,378,656).

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Brothers v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Applicant respectfully submits that Kajihara fails to anticipate Applicants invention under 35 U.S.C. § 102 because Kajihara fails to expressly or inherently identically describe the element of the claimed invention calling for “forming a strip of lead frames, said strip having *at least one integral clamping tab.*” As a result, the reference also fails to identically describe the element of the claimed invention calling for “aligning said strip of lead frames on said lower clamp member of said wire bonding device having said upper clamp member overlying portions of said at least two inner leads *and portions of said at least one integral clamping tab.*”

The Office Action asserted that the reference discloses an assembly method comprising “forming a strip of lead frames having at least one integral clamping tab[.]” The “tab” is identified as item 23, a strip of material which structurally connects die paddle 3 to outer portions of the lead frame in Figures 21, 22 and 25. Applicant respectfully submits that structure 23 is not an “integral clamping tab.”

First, “the words of a claim must be given their ‘plain meaning’ unless they are defined in the specification.” MPEP 2111.01. The word “tab” is not defined in the specification.” The Merriam-Webster unabridged dictionary of the English language defines the word “tab” as “1 a : a short projecting device: as (1) : a small flap or loop by which something may be grasped or

pulled (2) : a projection from a card used as an aid in filing b : a small insert, addition, or remnant c : Appendage, Extension[.]” Referring to Applicant’s Figure 2, clamping tabs 90 are clearly within the scope of the above definition. They have an end which is not attached and can be “grasped or pulled.” The structures are clearly extensions, projections or appendages of the die paddle. The Office Action, however, has applied the word to a piece of material (23 in Fig. 21) which connects two structures, and thus has no free end. Such a structure cannot function as a tab. The structure is not a tab within the common meaning of the word.

Furthermore, Applicant’s specification makes it clear that Applicant’s invention does not contemplate “tabs” which fall outside the reasonable meaning of the word. Paragraph [0030] states that “[t]he clamping tabs 90 are configured to be totally encapsulated in the completed packaged semiconductor device 40.” In contrast, Figures 21, 23, 24 and 29, as well as Col. 10, lines 19 through 22 of Kajihara make it clear that a portion of structure 23 (considered in the Office Action to be a “tab,” extends outside the resin-encoated, completed semiconductor device, and must be cut away or removed with a press after the resin has hardened. Because not all of the elements of Claim 1 are expressly or inherently identically described in Kajihara, Claim 1 is not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102 by Kajihara.

Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 is allowable. In failing to describe a tab, Kajihara also fails to disclose the following element of claim 2 calling for “deforming said at least one integral clamping tab to clamp portions thereof.”

Claims 2 and 3 are is allowable for the additional reason of depending from an allowable claim.

Applicant requests entry of this amendment for the following reasons:

The amendment is timely filed.

The amendment places the application in condition for allowance.

The amendment does not require any further search or consideration as no pending claim has been amended.

In summary, Applicant submits that claims 1 through 3 are clearly allowable over the cited prior art.

Applicant requests the entry of this amendment, the allowance of claims 1 through 3, and the case passed for issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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